PATENT APPLICATION 09/456,647

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Dale S. Howard, et al.

Serial No.:

09/456,647

Filed:

December 8, 1999

Group No.:

3623

Examiner:

Romain Jeanty

Notice of Allowance Mailed: July 12, 2006

Confirmation No.:

6729

Title:

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 7 and 24-26. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104, Applicants respectfully issue a statement commenting on the Examiner's reasons for allowance. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for allowance to the extent that they are inconsistent with applicable case law, statutes, and regulations.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 014208.1386 (35-95-010.1)

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Furthermore, Applicants do not admit to any characterization or limitation of the claims or to any characterization of a reference by the Examiner, particularly any that are inconsistent with the language of the claims considered in their entirety and including all of their constituent limitations.

Respectfully submitted, BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. Attorneys for Applicants

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